



# **NEEDHAM PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**



## **Update on COVID-19 From the Town of Needham and Needham Public Health**

April 2, 2020 – The Town of Needham and Needham Public Health today provided the following update regarding COVID-19.

### **State DPH COVID-19 Numbers**

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health is reporting that as of April 2, 2020 there are:

- 8,966 cases statewide
- 938 Norfolk County
- 154 deaths statewide

It's important to remember that most people who are confirmed to have COVID-19 recover. For more state data, visit [www.mass.gov/coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/coronavirus). Town data is updated and publicly released each Tuesday by 5 pm.

### **Big Changes Coming to the RTS Saturday to Help Keep Workers, Patrons Safe**

Some Town services have been impacted as the Town follows social distancing guidelines and reduces staff at Town facilities to essential workers only. To continue to provide critical services under these conditions and protect the health and safety of workers and patrons, the Recycling and Transfer Station is implementing the following changes:

- The number of vehicles that may enter the RTS at any one time will be limited. No more than 18 vehicles will be allowed in the trash/recycling area at once. No more than 6 vehicles will be allowed in the yard waste area at once.
- There will be two lanes of traffic to enter the RTS – one lane to the left will be for vehicles going straight to yard waste. The right lane will be for residents disposing of trash and recyclables.
- Bulky waste will no longer be accepted until resumption of normal business. Bulky waste are objects too big to fit in the yellow Pay As You Throw bags (items cleaned out from basements and garages for example).
- No trash can be disposed of without being placed first in a yellow bag.
- Contractors will not be allowed to utilize the RTS on Saturdays until the resumption of normal business. There are no exceptions to this.
- Residents are encouraged to visit the RTS during non-peak hours. Saturdays continue to be very busy, making social distancing a challenge. If you can deliver your waste on other days, that would be appreciated.
- In addition, the Swap Shop, donation bins, Goodwill Trailer and drop-off area for scrap metal, tires, refrigerators/air conditioners, and TVs and computers remain CLOSED.

Residents who need yellow bags to drop their trash at the RTS have options for purchasing the bags while practicing social distancing. In addition to purchasing bags in-store, the following retailers are making additional accommodations:

- Harvey's Hardware – bags available via curbside pickup (please practice social distancing)
- Roche Bros Supermarket – bags available via delivery
- Sudbury Farms – bags available via delivery
- Volante Farms – bags available curbside for high risk individuals



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### **Explore Needham Free Public Library's Online Offering for Kids**

The Children's Department of the Needham Free Public Library has numerous online resources helpful for families and children during the school and library closures. This page contains information for parents on talking to children about Covid-19, information and ebooks for children on Covid-19, online computer coding, STEAM and other at-home learning resources for children. Visit <http://needhamma.gov/4854/Activities-To-Do-At-Home>. Some of the Library's regular music performers have made recordings of the type of preschool programs they would normally offer in person at the library. You and your children can watch these music programs together [here](#).

### **Join the Needham Steps Challenge**

National Public Health Week is April 6-12. The American Public Health Association has launched a Billion Steps Challenge to get people moving across America. Join #TeamNeedham and let's try to get a billion steps as community. Visit [www.aphabillionsteps.walkertracker.com](http://www.aphabillionsteps.walkertracker.com) to join!

### **Survey Reminder - Let Us Know How We're Doing**

Let us know how we're doing providing you the information you need. Take this 3-question [survey](#) to help us make these daily updates as helpful as possible going forward. We know many people want daily updates of confirmed Needham cases. At this time, Needham Public Health is releasing those numbers weekly on Tuesdays at 5 pm.

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